

This listing of the claims replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-23 (Canceled).

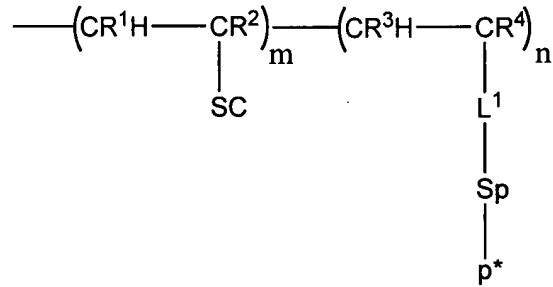
24. (Cancelled).

25. (Canceled).

26-30. (Cancelled).

31-37 (Cancelled).

38. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having the formula:



where:

m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a poly(alkylene oxide) side chain containing about 4-20 alkylene oxide units;

L^1 is selected from $O(CO)$, $O(CO)O$, $(CO)NH$, $O(CO)NH$, $S-S$, $S(CO)$, and $(CO)S$; $\sim O-(CO)-$, $\sim O-(CO)-O-$, $\sim (CO)-NH-$, $\sim O-(CO)-NH-$, $\sim S-S-$, $\sim S-(CO)-$, and $\sim (CO)-S-$, wherein \sim represents the bond through which L^1 attaches to the polymer backbone;

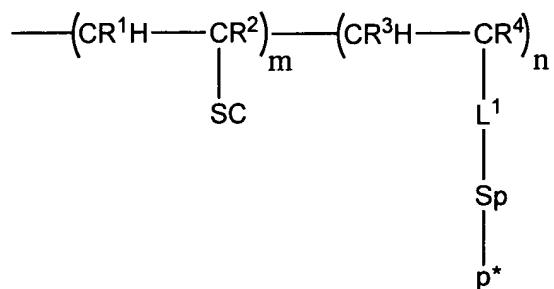
S_p is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and P^* is a polar moiety.

39. (Cancelled).

40. (Original) The polymer of claim 38, where m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000, and the polymer is prepared by polymerization of a composition consisting essentially of a hydrophilic monomer and an acrylic acid monomer esterified with a hydrophilic side chain.

41-90 (Cancelled).

91. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having the formula:



where:

m is an integer in the range of 0 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a hydrophilic side chain;

L^1 is selected from $\text{O}(\text{CO})$, $\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{O}$, $(\text{CO})\text{NH}$, $\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NH}$, SS , $\text{S}(\text{CO})$, and $(\text{CO})\text{S}$; $\sim\text{O}-(\text{CO})-$, $\sim\text{O}-(\text{CO})-\text{O}-$, $\sim(\text{CO})-\text{NH}-$, $\sim\text{O}-(\text{CO})-\text{NH}-$, $\sim\text{S-S-}$, $\sim\text{S}-(\text{CO})-$, and $\sim(\text{CO})-\text{S-}$, wherein \sim represents the bond through which L^1 attaches to the polymer backbone;

Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and P^* is a polar moiety.

92. (Canceled).